

1843

PROCEEDINGS
of the

GRAND CHAPTER

of
Royal Arch Masons
of

ALABAMA



A.D. 1843 / A.I. 2373

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MINUTES
OF THE
GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER

OF THE
STATE OF ALABAMA

BEGUN AND HELD AT THE MASONIC HALL IN THE

CITY OF TUSCALOOSA

On Tuesday, Dec. 5th, A. L. 5843, R. A. M. 2373,
A. D. 1843.

TUSCALOOSA,
PRINTED BY R. A. EATON.

1843.

ADDRESSES.

DAVID MOORE, M. E. G. H. P., Huntsville.

G. W. CREAGH, E. Dep. G. H. P., Suggsville.

AMAND P. PFISTER, Grand Sec'y, Tuscaloosa.

MINUTES

TUSCALOOSA, MASONIC HALL, Dec. 5, 1843. }
A. L. 5843. R. A. M. 2373. }

The M. E. Gr. Royal Arch Chapter of Alabama met pursuant to its constitution, and was opened in due form, after prayer and invocation of the blessings of Deity. There were present,

M. E. DAVID MOORE, Grand H. P.
E. WM. B. WOOD, G. K (pt.)
E. G. W. CREAGH, G. S. (pt.)
E. AMAND P. PFISTER, G. Secretary.
E. A. M. BRADLEY, G. Treas. (pt.)
E. JAMES PENN, G. C. H. (pt.)
E. WM. HENDRIX, G. R. A. C. (pt.)
JOSEPH W. PIERCE, G. Sentinel.

THE FOLLOWING SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS WERE REPRESENTED.

Tuscaloosa Chapter, No. 1—Amand P. Pfister, H. P.; Rev. E. V. Levert, (p.) K.; Wm. Garrett, S.
Monroe Chapter, No. 4—G. W. Creagh, S.
Eunomia Chapter, No. 5—James Penn, H. P.; Daniel B. Turner, (p.) S.
Cyrus Chapter, No. 6—Wm. B. Wood (p.), H. P.; Baylor B. Barker, (p.), S.
Clinton Chapter, No. 9—A. M. Bradley (p.), H. P.
Tuscumbia Chapter, No. 10—Felix G. Norman, H. P.
Phoenix Chapter, No. 11—Charles Whelan, H. P.
Marion Chapter, No. 12—Wm. Hendrix, H. P.
Wetumpka Chapter, No. 17—Wm. C. Penick, (p.) H. P.

Mt. Moriah Chapter, No. 19.—Wm. F. Pierce, K.
 Montgomery Chapter, No. 22—Thomas Welsh, (p.) K.
 Talladega Chapter, No. 23—George W. Stone (p.), H. P.;
 Green T. McAfee (p.), K.; John H. Townsend, S.

The Grand Secretary presented the following report:

Since the last convocation, the usual number of the Proceedings have been published and forwarded to the different subordinate Chapters and Grand Chapters, in correspondence with this Grand Chapter.

The Chapters, viz: Clinton, No. 8, Leighton, No. 14, and Hayneville, No. 15, the charters of which were declared forfeited at the last convocation, have not surrendered said charters to this Grand Chapter, but retain them yet in their possession.

The fiscal concerns of this Grand Chapter are as follows:

In the Grand Treasury-----	\$363 45
Comp. Herndon -----	90 00

AMAND P. PFISTER,
 Gr. Sec'y G. C. of Ala.

The Grand Treasurer of the M. E. Grand Chapter of Alabama, reports:

That since the last annual convocation of this Grand Chapter, he has received from Companion Grand Secretary, cash amounting to three hundred thirteen 45-100 dollars, and vouchers for cash paid by him to sundry persons, amounting to two hundred and sixty-two dollars, as will more fully appear from the accompanying account current.

The said vouchers and cash amounting in the aggregate to five hundred and seventy-five 45-100 dollars, are herewith submitted for the inspection of the Grand Chapter.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed)

WM. GARRETT, Gr. Treas.

The M. E. G. H. Priest, Comp. David Moore, made the following report:

That during the past year he has granted a dispensation for the establishment of a chapter at Eufaula by the name of Eufaula Chapter, No. 24.

Resolved, That the reading of the minutes of the last annual convocation be dispensed with, each member of this Grand Chapter having been furnished with a copy thereof.

Resolved, That all Royal Arch Masons in good standing, be permitted to a seat in this Grand Chapter during the Convocation.

The M. E. Grand High Priest appointed the following Standing Committees:

On Accounts—Comps. Penn, Hendrix and Welsh.

On Chartered Chapters—Comps. Wood, Bradley and Whelan.

On Chapters under Dispensation—Comps. Norman, Barker, and Hendrix.

On Correspondence—Comps. Creagh, Whelan and Penn.

On Work—Comps. Penn, Hendrix, Thomason, Creagh and Whelan.

The M. E. Grand Chapter then adjourned until tomorrow, 3 o'clock P. M.

WEDNESDAY, THREE O'CLOCK, P. M.

The M. E. Grand Chapter met pursuant to adjournment.

PRESENT:

M. E. DAVID MOORE, G. H. P.

E. W. B. WOOD, G. K.

E. G. W. CREAGH, G. S.

E. A. P. PFISTER, G. Secretary.
 E. A. M. BRADLEY, G. Treasurer.
 E. JAMES PENN, G. C. H.
 E. WM. HENDRIX, G. R. A. C.
 JOSEPH W. PIERCE, G. Sentinel.

And a due number of Chapters represented.

The Grand Secretary reported, that he had examined the Reports of the various Chapters submitted to him, and find that those of Mount Moriah, No. 19, and Wetumpka, No. 17, are informal, not having a seal affixed to them, as required by the constitution.

A petition from sundry Companions residing at Courtland, Alabama, praying for a charter to form a Royal Arch Chapter at said place, was read and referred to the Committee on Chartered Chapters.

The Grand Chapter then proceeded to the election of the Grand Officers for the next ensuing twelve months. Whereupon the following Companions were duly elected:

M. E. DAVID MOORE, Huntsville, G. H. P.
 E. G. W. CREAGH, Suggsville, Dep. G. H. P.
 E. CHARLES WHELAN, Greensboro, G. King.
 E. E. V. LEVERT, Greensboro, G. Scribe.
 E. A. P. PFISTER, Tuscaloosa, G. Secretary.
 E. WM. GARRETT, Tuscaloosa, G. Treasurer.
 E. REV. J. H. THOMASON, Tuscaloosa, G. Chaplain.
 E. WM. HENDRIX, Marion, }
 E. WM. B. WOOD, Florence, } G. Marshals.
 JOSEPH W. PIERCE, Tuscaloosa, G. Sentinel.

After which the M. E. G. H. Priest made the following appointments:

Comps. A. M. BRADLEY, Athens, G. R. A. C.

THOS. WELSH, Montgomery,	} Grand	{ 3	} Veils.		
J. E. TOWNSEND, Talladega.				} Masters.	{ 2
J. B. WALLACE, Monroeville,					

The Grand Chapter then adjourned until tomorrow, 3 o'clock, P. M.

THURSDAY, 3 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The M. E. Grand Chapter met pursuant to adjournment.

PRESENT:

M. E. DAVID MOORE, G. H. P.

E. F. G. NORMAN, G. K.

E. W. B. WOOD, G. S.

E. REV. J. THOMASON, G. Chaplain.

E. AMAND P. PFISTER, G. Secretary.

E. J. MC C. WILEY, G. Treasurer, pt.

E. WM. HENDRIX, G. C. H.

E. A. M. BRADLEY, G. R. A. C.

E. JOSEPH W. PIERCE, G. Sentinel.

Comp. GEORGE STEELE, (p.) K., Eunomia Ch. No. 5.

The Committee on Accounts made the following report, which was ordered to be spread on the minutes:

Your Committee on Accounts beg leave to report, That they have examined the books, papers and vouchers of the Grand Secretary, and find that he received and paid over to the

Grand Treasurer, since the last convocation of this Grand Chapter, five hundred and seventy-five 45-100 dollars.

That they have examined the account current and vouchers of the Grand Treasurer, and find that he has received the above amount from the Grand Secretary, and paid out by the order of this Grand Chapter, two hundred and sixty-two dollars, for which he has the proper vouchers, and that he has rendered over to your committee in cash, three hundred and thirteen 45-100 dollars.—Your committee has also received from the Grand Secretary, two hundred and forty-six dollars, the amount paid this Grand Chapter by subordinate Chapters for dues of the year 1843.

Your committee also find that Comp. Herndon, D. G. H. P., has received for a dispensation to Monroe Chapter, ninety dollars, which remains in his hands.

Your committee from the above facts, are enabled to make the following statement of the funds of this Grand Chapter, viz:

In the hands of Comp. Herndon, D. G. H. P.	\$ 90 00
In the hands of your Committee	559 45
	\$649 45

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES PENN,
THOS. WELSH,
WM. HENDRIX,
Committee.

Amand P. Pfister in account with M. E. Grand Chapter of Alabama, 1842. Dr.

Dec. To balance as per report, 1842	\$187 45
Amount received as per report of committee on chartered Chapters	268 00
Amount received since adjournment, 1842	120 00
	\$575 45

Contra Cr.

By cash paid Grand Treasurer.....	\$342 00
By cash paid Grand Treasurer.....	89 00
By cash paid Grand Treasurer.....	144 45

Tuscaloosa, Dec. 5, 1843.

\$575 45

AMAND P. PFISTER,

Grand Secretary.

Wm. Garrett, Grand Treasurer, in account with M. E. Grand
Chapter of Alabama, 1842. Dr.

March. 2. To cash received from Grand Secretary.....	\$342 00
To cash received from Grand Secretary.....	89 00
To cash received from Grand Secretary.....	144 45

Contra Cr.

\$575 45

By cash paid Marion Chapter.....	\$6 00
By Appropriation Gr. Sec.....	100 00
By Grand Sentinel's fees.....	21 00
By returned to Monroe Chapter.....	90 00
By Comp. Benson, mileage.....	25 00
By for Montgomery Chapter, 1841.....	20 00

\$962 00

By cash balance in Treasury..... 313 45

\$575 45

(Signed)

WM. GARRETT, Gr. Treas.

On motion of Comp. Penn,—

Resolved, That the amount of funds reported by the Committee on Accounts, as being in their hands, be returned to the Grand Secretary, to be by him paid over to the Grand Treasurer, and that he be instructed to deposit the amount in the State Bank of Alabama to the credit of the Grand Chapter of the State of Alabama, to be drawn out only in conformity with the provisions of the constitution.

By Comp. Hendrix,—

Resolved, That whereas there is no amount of compensation mentioned in the constitution for the services of our Grand Secretary, and every year the duties becoming more arduous, it is therefore ordered, that an appropriation of one hundred dollars be paid him out of the funds of this Grand Chapter.

Resolved, That the proposed amendment to the constitution, offered at the last convocation of this M. E. Grand Chapter, viz: "That any Subordinate Chapter may confer the degrees on ministers of the gospel, without charging any fees for the same; and that this Grand Chapter will not require from any Subordinate Chapter, dues from any member of said Chapters, who is a minister of the gospel, unless that Chapter charges dues to said minister of the gospel," be laid over until the next Grand convocation.

The following amendment to the constitution was offered by Comp. Welsh for consideration until the next annual convocation:

Resolved, That the constitution of the Grand Chapter of the State of Alabama be so amended as to reduce the fee for Chapter Degrees to thirty dollars, viz: for Mark M, \$5; P. M., \$5 M. E. M., \$5; and Royal A., \$15.00.

On motion of Comp. Hendrix,—

Resolved, That the dispensation heretofore granted by Comp. David Moore, M. E. G. H. P., since the last annual convocation, to certain Companions at Eufaula, in Barbour county, to establish a Chapter in that place, be extended twelve months, provided that said Chapter make their returns and pay their dues for the past year within 90 days to the Grand Secretary.

The following Report of the Committee on Chartered Chapters, was received and concurred in:

Your Committee upon Chartered Chapters beg leave to report that they have closely examined the reports and commis-

sions of proxies, sent up by the Subordinate Chapters, and find that those of Tuscaloosa, Eunomia, Cyrus, Clinton, Phoenix, Montgomery, Marion, Talladega and Tuscumbia are correct and in due form, with their seals affixed. The report and commissions of proxy of Wetumpka Chapter, No. 17, are without the seal as required by the constitution of the Grand Chapter, and the report of Mt. Moriah Chapter, No. 19, is informal in every respect.

They have carefully examined the proceedings and report of Monroe Chapter, No. 4, and find them correct, except that they are without a seal, but as the time has not yet expired, granted them by the constitution of the Grand Chapter to procure a seal; we believe this defect in the report is cured by that article of the constitution, and the report a good one.

They have also had under consideration the petitions of several companions, praying for a charter for the establishment of a Chapter at Courtland, Alabama; said petition is recommended by the Tuscumbia Chapter under the private seal of the High Priest of said Chapter; but as the constitution of the Grand Chapter says that no document shall be legal without the seal as is described in the 4th section of the 4th Article, we are compelled to report the certificate of recommendation in said petition informal.

Your committee most earnestly recommend to the subordinate Chapters to follow the printed form laid down in the constitution of the Grand Chapter in making their reports; and that all documents and papers sent up to the Grand Chapter, have their seals affixed, as is required by the constitution.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

WM. B. WOOD,

A. M. BRADLEY,

Committee.

* Comp. Grand Secretary reported the following Chapters delinquent, viz:

Gainesville, Jameston, Livingston and Mobile. Whereupon it was resolved, That said Chapters

have ninety days allowed to make their reports and pay their dues.

The Grand Chapter then proceeded to the installation of their officers elect.

By Comp. Norman,—

Resolved, That the 5th section of the 4th article of the constitution of the Grand Chapter, be so amended as to insert at the end the following words, to wit: "And provided further, that no one shall receive any of the degrees in, or be admitted a member of any Subordinate Chapter, without the unanimous consent of the members present.

By Comp. Pfister,—

Resolved, That all the Subordinate Chapters within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, furnish a copy of their By-Laws at the next annual convocation.

By Comp. Hendrix,—

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be instructed to procure such a set of jewels for the Grand Chapter by the next annual convocation, as in his judgment is suitable.

The Grand Chapter then adjourned until tomorrow evening, 4 o'clock.

4 O'CLOCK, P. M. FRIDAY EVENING, Dec. 8, 1843.

The Grand Chapter opened in due form, according to adjournment.

PRESENT:

M. E. DAVID MOORE, G. H. P.

E. G. W. CREAGH, D. G. H. P.

E. FELIX G. NORMAN, G. K.

E. JAMES PENN, G. S.
E. A. P. PFISTER, Grand Secretary.
E. A. M. BRADLEY, Grand Treasurer.
E. WM. B. WOOD, }
E. WM. HENDRIX, } G. Marshals.
JOSEPH W. PIERCE, G. Sentinel.

The following resolution was adopted on motion of Companion Penn,—

Resolved, That the G. H. Priest be instructed to draw on the Grand Treasurer for one hundred dollars allowed the Grand Secretary for his services the past year, and that he also draw on the Treasury for two hundred dollars in addition, to be placed in the hands of the Grand Secretary as a contingent fund, to pay for printing, jewels ordered to be purchased, and for a Mitre, Crown and Turban, and three Sceptres for the use of the Grand Chapter.

The Grand Chapter then adjourned until tomorrow, 10 o'clock, A. M.

SATURDAY, 10 O'CLOCK, A. M.

The Grand Chapter met pursuant to adjournment, M. E. David Moore, G. H. P., and officers as at previous meeting.

Comp. Penn, from the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, made the following report, which was concurred in:

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence to which was referred the proceedings of the Grand Chapters of Virginia, Kentucky and Connecticut, at their last annual convocations, have examined the same, and beg leave to report,

That those proceedings contain nothing which requires the special consideration of this Grand Chapter, except a resolution adopted by the Grand Chapter of Virginia, which declares that "the degrees of Royal and Select Master, as ordered to be conferred by her Subordinate Chapters," are in strict conformity with the ancient customs of the Fraternity.

Without attempting *here* to controvert the correctness of the assumption in relation to the ancient customs of the Fraternity, so far as the conferring of those degrees are concerned, your committee cannot but regret the adoption of the measure. The establishment of councils claiming the entire control of them has for years past been recognized as legal and proper, and the establishment of such bodies throughout the Union, and particularly in the South and Southwestern States render the correction of the error, if it be one, which your committee by no means admit, highly inexpedient and well calculated to produce confusion and unkind feelings, where should reign peace, harmony and brotherly love. Royal and Select Masters made in the mode prescribed by the Grand Chapter of Virginia, cannot be acknowledged as such by the members of our councils here. Your committee, therefore, trust that the measure will yet be reviewed by that Grand Chapter and reversed, and thus avoid the unpleasant consequences which must result from its execution.

Your committee recommend that the Grand Secretary of this Grand Chapter forward to all the Grand Chapters of the United States a copy of the proceedings of this Grand Chapter at its present convocation, and that an interchange of such courtesy be asked from them. Respectfully submitted,

JAMES PENN,
G. W. CREAGH,
CHAS. WHELAN,
Committee.

On motion of Companion Penn,—

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be instructed to procure Comp. Charles W. Moore's Free Mason's Monthly Magazine,

so far as it has been published in volumes, to be kept as a book of reference by this Grand Chapter.

No further business offering, the Grand Chapter was closed in solemn and ample form, until the next annual convocation.

LIST OF SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS.

Tuscaloosa, No. 1—A. P. Pfister, H. P.; C. R. Harrison, Sec.
Monroe, No. 4—James Dellet, H. P.; C. H. Foster, Sec.

Eunomia, No. 5—James Penn, H. P.; Ellison Smith, Sec.

Cyrus, No. 6.—Joseph Bigger, H. P.; Saml. D. Weakly, Sec.

Clinton, No. 9—Fred'k G. Ferguson, H. P.;; Robt. Austin, Jr., Sec.

Tuscumbia, No. 10—F. G. Norman, H. P.; Dennis C. Tynan, Sec.

Phoenix, No. 11—Charles Whelan, H. P.; Wm. Kerr, Sec.

Marion, No. 12—Wm. Hendrix, H. P.; W. R. Brown, Sec.

Gainesville, No. 13—Wm. Gorman, H. P.; Benj. H. Kieser, Sec.

Wetumpka, No 17—A. A. McWhorter, H. P.; Wm. B. Cooper, Sec.

Jameston, No. 18.

Mt. Moriah, No. 19—M. B. Posey, H. P.; J. Oliver, Jr., Sec.

Livingston, No. 20—R. H. Dalton, H. P.; Bennet Tompkins, Sec.

Mobile, No 21—John A. Cuthbert, H. P.; Edwin Rust, Sec.

Montgomery, No. 22—Nimrod E. Benson, H. P.; Ed. M. Hastings, Sec.

Talladega, No. 23—John M. Moore, H. P.; Sam H. Dickson, Sec.

Eufaula, No. 24—No return.

The following reports of Chapters, and the officers of the same were delayed, and prevented being present at this convocation of the Grand Chapter, (in consequence of an accident occurring to the Steamer Gen. Harrison, on which boat they were passengers) have since arrived.

Gainesville Chapter, No. 13—Wm. Dandridge (p.), H. P.

Livingston Chapter, No. 20—R. H. Dalton, H. P.

Mobile Chapter, No. 21—John F. Pagles (p.), K.